

“Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy”

Sample language to assist clients in preparing a policy

The information presented below provides some sample language you can use to prepare a greenhouse gas policy to take to your governing body for adoption.

It is not necessary to adopt policy language from each general category. The idea is that the policy needs to be appropriate for your jurisdiction. Please feel free to use this information in completing your Green House Gas Emission Reduction Policy.

If you have any questions regarding the Greenhouse Gas policy please contact your Client Service Representative for guidance.

CATAGORIES OF SAMPLE POLICY STATEMENTS

TECHNOLOGIES

- Public Buildings Policy Details:
- All new publicly funded buildings should be models of cost-effective, energy- efficient design.
- Encourage energy conservation practices in buildings by raising the awareness of employees own energy use.
- Conduct energy audits of publicly owned buildings, evaluate potential conservation measures, and then carry out those measures that are appropriate.
- Promote weatherization programs for existing buildings, including subsidizing materials for low-income citizens and providing information to all citizens.

EMPLOYEE ORIENTED POLICY DETAILS:

- Encourage ride-sharing, van-pooling and the use of flex-time schedules by employees
- Provide free transit passes to employees who wish to commute by transit
- Support voluntary, employer-based trip reduction programs, including:
 1. Provide assistance to regional and local ridesharing organizations
 2. Advocate for legislation to maintain and expand incentives for employer ridesharing programs
 3. Require the development of Transportation Management Associations for large employers and commercial/ industrial complexes

- Provide public recognition of effective programs through awards, top ten lists, and other mechanisms.
- Implement a “guaranteed ride home” program for those who commute by public transit, ride-sharing, or other modes of transportation, and encourage employers to subscribe to or support the program.
- Encourage telecommuting options with new and existing employers, through project review and incentives, as appropriate.
- Encourage energy conservation practices in buildings by raising the awareness of employees own energy use.

ENERGY SOURCE & USE POLICY DETAILS:

- Reduce greenhouse gases by expanding the use of conservation and alternative energy sources and by reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing alternatives to driving alone.
- Reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.
- Encourage energy conservation practices in buildings by raising the awareness of employees own energy use.

FLEET & VEHICLE POLICY DETAILS:

- Evaluate an energy-sensitive fleet management program, to include driver training, the use of alternate energy sources such as electricity, diesel or bottled gas, fuel-efficient vehicles, frequent tuning and maintenance of vehicles, and the use of re-refined motor oil in fleet vehicles.
- Reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.
- Purchasing Policy Details:
- Utilize purchasing to promote reductions in GHG emissions by the suppliers of its goods and services.
- Reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.

EQUIPMENT ORIENTED POLICY DETAILS:

- Manage street lighting needs by applying lighting standards and using lamps that will assure safe and effective illumination at minimum cost and energy use.
- Continue efforts to reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.
- Monitor the efficiency of the pumps in water and sewer systems, and operate and maintain them at peak efficiency. When cost effective options are possible, the one using the least amount of energy shall be preferred.

WASTE REDUCTION & USE ORIENTED POLICY DETAILS

- Implement a solid waste strategy which:
 - * Reduces the solid waste stream by recycling and other means
 - * Investigates ways to convert non-recyclable solid waste to energy and
 - * Promotes the purchase of recycled and recyclable goods
- Expand jurisdiction-wide waste diversion services to include, for example, single stream curbside recycling, and curbside recycling of food and green waste.
- Reduce GHG emissions waste through improved management of waste handling and reductions in waste generation.
- Where and when allowed by the building code, encourages the use of building construction materials made from recycled and recyclable materials.

LAND USE ORIENTED POLICY DETAILS:

- Ensure that local Climate Action, Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Plans are aligned with, support, and enhance any regional plans that have been developed consistent with state guidance to achieve reductions in GHG emissions.
- Adopt and implement a development pattern that utilizes existing infrastructure
- Redirect new growth into existing city/urban growth areas.
- Encourage high-density, mixed-use, infill development and creative reuse of brownfield, under-utilized and/or defunct properties within the urban area.
- Reduce required road width standards wherever feasible to calm traffic and encourage alternative modes of transportation.
- Whenever possible, urban development should occur only where urban public facilities and services exist or can be reasonably made available.

GLOBAL POLICY IDEAS:

- Reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.
- Reduce the rate of energy consumption through conservation and alternative energy forms to extend the life of existing facilities and infrastructure.
- Maintain and, where possible, improve air and water quality, soils, and natural systems to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants. Reduce the impacts of transportation on air and water quality, and climate change.
- Reduce levels for air toxics, fine particulates, and greenhouse gases.
- Protect and enhance the environment and public health and safety when providing services and facilities.

- Ensure that local Climate Action, Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Plans are aligned with, support, and enhance any regional plans that have been developed consistent with state guidance to achieve reductions in GHG emissions.
- Give priority to transportation projects that will contribute to a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita, while maintaining economic vitality and sustainability.
- Conserve natural resources such as water and open space to minimize energy used and GHG emissions and to preserve and promote the ability of such resources to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Publicize energy conservation actions to raise public awareness of the value of wise energy use.
- Promote and expand recycling programs, purchasing policies, and employee education to reduce the amount of waste produced.
- Establish a coordinated, creative public outreach campaign including publicizing the importance of reducing GHG emissions and steps community members can take to reduce their individual impacts. Use a variety of media and methods to promote climate awareness and GHG reduction, including: and radio spots with local celebrities and community leaders
- Collaborate with local energy suppliers and distributors to establish energy conservation. Increase public awareness of climate change and climate protection challenges, and support community reductions of GHG emissions through coordinated, creative public education and outreach, and recognition of achievements.
- Work with local businesses and energy providers on specific, targeted outreach campaigns and incentive programs.

TRANSPORTATION ORIENTED POLICY DETAILS:

- Give priority to transportation projects that will contribute to a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita, while maintaining economic vitality and sustainability.
- Reduce GHG emissions by reducing vehicle miles traveled and by increasing or encouraging the use of alternative fuels and transportation technologies.
- Provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and bicyclists to, across, and along major transit priority streets.
- Use park-and-ride facilities to access transit stations only at ends of regional transitways or where adequate feeder bus service is not feasible.
- Expand signal timing programs where emissions reduction benefits can be demonstrated, including maintenance of the synchronization system, and will coordinate with adjoining jurisdictions as needed to optimize transit operation while maintaining a free flow of traffic.
- Promote ride sharing programs, including: Designate a certain percentage of parking spaces for ride-sharing vehicles

- Support voluntary, employer-based trip reduction programs, including: Provide assistance to regional and local ridesharing organizations
- Implement a “guaranteed ride home” program for those who commute by public transit, ride-sharing, or other modes of transportation, and encourage employers to subscribe to or support the program.

OTHER TYPES OF POLICY IDEAS:

- Coordinate with other agencies in region to develop and implement effective waste management strategies and waste-to-energy technologies.
- Establish a water conservation plan that may include such policies and actions as:
 1. Tiered rate structures for water use
- Establish programs and policies to increase the use of recycled water, including:
 1. Create an inventory of non-potable water uses within the jurisdiction that could be served with recycled water.
 2. Produce and promote the use of recycled water for agricultural, industrial, and irrigation purposes, including grey water systems for residential irrigation.
 3. Produce and promote the use of treated, recycled water for potable uses where GHG emissions from producing such water are lower than from other potable sources.
- Install water-efficient landscapes and irrigation, including:
 1. Plant drought-tolerant and native species, and covering exposed dirt with moisture-retaining mulch.
 2. Install water-efficient irrigation systems and devices, including advanced technology such as moisture-sensing irrigation controls.
 3. Install edible landscapes that provide local food.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

WHEREAS, state, regional and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership is multi-partisan and coming from governors, county officials, and mayors alike;

WIIEREAS, many local governments throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing the production of global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits, such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the _____ hereby adopts the following policies and/or procedures that will benefit it's natural resources and reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses:

ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2010

<Local Government Signature Block Goes Here>